

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the application of:

Hirotooshi Otsuki

Group Art Unit: 1733

Serial Number: 10/706,044

Examiner: Steven D. Maki

Filed: November, 13, 2003

For: PNEUMATIC TIRE

DECLARATION UNDER 37 CFR 1.132

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Hirotooshi Otsuki residing at 2-4-58, Takamatsuminami,
Izumisano-shi, Osaka-fu, Japan duly deposes and says:

1. That he graduated from Department of Biotechnology
and Applied Chemistry, Faculty of Engineering, Okayama University of
Science, Okayama-ken, Japan, in the year 1992;

2. That since 1992, he has been employed in the capacity
of Sumitomo rubber Industries, Ltd.;

3. That from 1999 he has been engaged in development for
compound in developing rubber compositions for truck and bus.;

4. That he has read and is familiar with the instant
application for United States Letters Patent and Office Action thereto
mailed June 13, 2006.; and

5. That he has made experiments in order to show that the
rubber compositions described in JP 2002-128957 is inferior in ozone

cracking resistance.

Experimental Example 2

The materials shown in Table 2 according to the composition shown in Table 2 were mixed in a 1.8 L Banbury mixer to obtain each unvulcanized sample rubber composition in the same manner as Examples 1 to 4 and Comparative Examples 1 to 9 of the present specification. Then, each rubber composition formed in a thickness of 2 mm was vulcanized for 30 minutes at 150°C to obtain a vulcanized rubber composition. The obtained vulcanized rubber compositions were subjected to the rubber hardness and tensile tests and respectively evaluated in the same manner as Examples 1 to 4 and Comparative Examples 1 to 9 of the present specification. The results are shown in Table 2.

Also, each unvulcanized rubber composition in the form of tape was laminated as the thin film layer (width 50 to 70 mm, thickness 2 to 3.5 mm) to the buttress of a 295/75R 22.5 size unvulcanized tire for trucks and buses and then vulcanized. More specifically, the tire was prepared by the divisional method, in which the standard sidewall rubber in the form of tape and two kinds of the unvulcanized rubber composition were laminated on one unvulcanized tire. Using each obtained vulcanized tire, evaluation of ozone cracking resistance and coloring resistance were conducted in the same manner as Examples 1 to 4 and Comparative Examples 1 to 9 of the present specification. The results are shown in Table 2.

Table 2

	Experimental Example 2
<u>Composition (parts by weight)</u>	
NR	100
Carbon black	50
Zinc Oxide	3
Stearic Acid	2
Antioxidant D	10
Aroma Oil	5
Sulfur	1
Vulcanization accelerator NS	1.5
<u>Properties</u>	
Hs	57
Hs after Aging	62
Modulus 200 % (MPa)	6.0
TB (MPa)	23.5
EB (%)	600
Ozone cracking resistance	3
Coloring Resistance	○

NR: RSS #3

Carbon black: Carbon N330 available from Cabot Japan K. K.

Antioxidant D: Antioxidant 35-PR (mixture of antioxidant C and silica, in a solid state at 40°C or lower, proportion of silica: approximately 33 % by weight, CTAB absorption amount of silica: 165m²/g) available from Seiko Chemical Co., Ltd.

Aroma oil: Process X-14D available from Japan Energy Corporation

Sulfur: fine powder sulfur 200 mesh available from Tsurumi Chemicals Co., Ltd.

Vulcanization Accelerator NS: Nocceler NS
(N-tert-butyl-2-benzothiazylsulfenamide), available from Ouchi Shinko

Chemical Industrial Co., Ltd.

Result and Discussion

Experimental example 2 of above Table 2 contain 100 parts by weight of NR and 10 parts by weight of antioxidant D. From above Table 2, it is shown that ozone cracking resistance of Experimental Example 2 is notably low value of "3".

The undersigned declares further that all statements made herein of his own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issuing thereon.

This 13th day of October, 2006

by Hirotohi Otsuki

Hirotohi Otsuki

We, the undersigned witnesses, hereby acknowledge that Hirotohi Otsuki is personally known to us and did execute the foregoing Declaration in our presence on:

Date: October 13, 2006

Witness Yutaka Sakon

Date: October 13, 2006

Witness Yoshiaki Someya